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July 1, 2005

Via Electronic Filing (ECFS)

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
236 Massachusetts Avenue, N.E.
Suite 110
Washington, D.C. 20002

Re: Facility ID No. 147
WTIC-TV Hartford, Connecticut
Request for Waiver of Interference Protection Deadline
MB Docket No. 03-15

Dear Ms. Dortch:

Tribune Television Company ("TTC"), licensee of WTIC-TV, NTSC Channel 61/DTV Channel 31, Hartford, Connecticut, by its undersigned counsel, hereby requests a waiver of the interference protection deadline established by the Commission in the Second DTV Periodic Report & Order in the above-referenced docket.¹ This waiver request is filed pursuant to the Commission's recent Public Notice addressing various DTV channel election issues relating to the July 1, 2005 replication/maximization deadline.² As demonstrated more fully below, TTC has been unable to complete construction of its maximized DTV facilities due to circumstances beyond its control. For this reason, TTC also hereby requests a renewal of its Special Temporary Authority ("STA") to continue reduced-power DTV operations while it completes construction of its maximized facility. See FCC File No. BEDSTA-20050321ATQ.

WTIC is the Fox affiliate in the Hartford-New Haven, Connecticut DMA, which is one of the top-100 markets in the U.S. WTIC has a DTV construction permit to operate from

¹ *Second DTV Periodic Review and Order*, 9 FCC Rcd 18,279 (released September 7, 2004) ("Second DTV Periodic DTV Order").

² Public Notice, "DTV Channel Election Issues – Compliance with the July 1, 2005 Replication/Maximization Interference Protection Deadline; Stations Seeking Extension of the Deadline," DA 05-1636, released June 15, 2005.

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch

July 1, 2005

Page 2

its current analog transmission site, *see* FCC File No. BMPCDT-20030328ABZ, and a pending minor modification application proposing to maximize WTIC's DTV facilities and conform them to the latest technical specifications of WTIC's tower which is to be modified and strengthened by its owner. *See* FCC File No. BMPCDT-20040616AAM. Prior to the due date of Form 381, TTC learned that the FCC had been unable to complete coordination with Canada on WTIC's pending DTV construction permit application. Accordingly, TTC certified on Form 381 that it would build-out the facilities proposed in the construction permit application but that those facilities had not been authorized because of a pending international coordination issue. *See* FCC File No. BCERCT - 20041104AYB. On June 8, 2005, the Commission issued to WTIC a tentative channel 31 designation for its post-transition DTV operations.³ Following that designation and pursuant to the interference protection requirements adopted by the FCC in the *Second DTV Periodic Order*, WTIC was required to build-out its maximized DTV facility by July 1, 2005 because channel 31 is its DTV channel.⁴

TTC has been unable to complete construction of its maximized DTV facility for several reasons beyond its control. Most recently, TTC has been prevented from completing construction because the FCC has not yet acted on its underlying construction permit application due to delays in securing Canadian concurrence. *See* FCC File No. BMPCDT-20040616AAM. For this reason alone, the Commission should grant TTC the requested extension. The Commission has consistently recognized that DTV construction delays caused by international coordination issues satisfy the "circumstances beyond the licensee's control" test.

Even if the FCC approved WTIC's maximized DTV construction permit application tomorrow, TTC would still be unable to complete construction of those facilities because WTIC's tower owner has not yet completed the tower improvements and related strengthening work needed to permit WTIC to operate at the parameters proposed in its maximization application. The tower improvement work includes the addition of a new candelabra to be installed on the top of the tower where, *inter alia*, WTIC's high-powered DTV antenna will be installed. The installation of the new candelabra will be no small undertaking -- the owner will need to remove WTIC's analog antenna from the top of the existing tower as well as the top two sections of the tower.

As demonstrated above, TTC submits that it has been unable to complete construction of WTIC's DTV maximization facility due to circumstances beyond its control and that the requested extension of the interference protection deadline should be granted. Despite these and other DTV construction delays beyond its control, TTC has not simply stood by. TTC constructed and signed on a DTV STA facility for WTIC in March of 2004. *See* FCC File No. BMDSTA-20040225ABV. This WTIC-DT STA operation provides substantial service to the Hartford market -- approximately 75 percent of the population inside the noise limited contour of

³ Public Notice, "DTV Tentative Channel Designations for 1,554 Stations Participating in the First Round of DTV Channel Elections," DA 05-1743, released June 23, 2005 & Accompanying Table.

⁴ *See Second Periodic DTV Order*, ¶ 78

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch

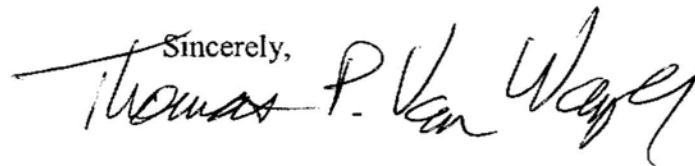
July 1, 2005

Page 3

WTIC-DT's channel 31 allotment receive service from the WTIC-DT STA facility. In addition, the WTIC-DT STA provides service to 100 percent of the land area in the Hartford-New Haven DMA. The WTIC-DT STA facility also provides the requisite 48 dBu signal to Hartford, WTIC's city of license.

Until the various impediments are removed and TTC builds-out WTIC's maximized DTV facility, the WTIC-DT STA allows TTC to provide DTV programming, including the Fox network HD programming, to the Hartford market. For this reason, TTC submits that the request for extension of the WTIC-DT STA is in the public interest and should also be granted.

Please direct any questions regarding this request to the undersigned.

Sincerely,


Thomas P. Van Wazer